

From: Rodney Smith
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 12:37pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement -against

To Whom It May Concern:

I am opposed to the proposed settlement in the Microsoft antitrust trial. You have been bamboozled by techno-talk. The definitions are too loose. Microsoft will wiggle free as if there was no "settlement". Why sign a "settlement" when it will settle nothing and achieve no lasting effects? Attorneys may disagree with me, but I am a software developer active in the retail software industry for the last 12 years. I see the effects of predatory behavior, disrespect for other's IP rights, and restrictive OEM agreements that prevent alternatives from seeing a level playing field.

The proposed settlement does nothing to correct Microsoft's previous actions. There are no provisions that correct or redress their previous abuses. They only intend to prohibit the future repetition of those abuses. And poorly at that. Where is the punishment for lying in court? Where is the oversight with teeth? Where are monetary relationships broken? Trimmed and tweaked is what I see, not substantially changed.

While the Court's desire that a settlement be reached is well-intentioned, it is wrong to reach an unjust settlement just for settlement's sake. Open my industry!

Sincerely,

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